

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1573

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CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 4317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SA, US, PFOR, MASS, MARR

SUBJECT: NORTHROP'S AGENTS' FEES - PROCLAMATION FROM MODA

REF JIDDA 4297

1. THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION CONCERNING AGENTS' FEES WAS BROADCAST JUNE 14 AND PUBLISHED IN THE PAPERS THE FOLLOWING DAY. AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. "A PROCLAMATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION.

ON THE OCCASION OF RECENT NEWS AGENCY REPORTS ABOUT THE PAYMENTS BY THE AMERICAN NORTHROP CORPORATION TO ITS AGENT, THE TRIAD FINANCIAL CORPORATION, AND WITH REFERENCE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT THIS COMPANY PAID THE SUM OF \$450,000 TO THE SAID AGENT IN EARLY 1971 TO BE PASSED ON TO TWO OFFICERS IN THE SAUDI ARMED FORCES, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION WISHES TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE NOBLE SAUDI PEOPLE AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

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(1) THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO SECURE ARMS FOR ITS FORCES ACCORDING TO A PROGRAM THAT IS IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING SURE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO INTERMEDIARIES OR BENEFICIARIES OF THESE ARMS CONTRACTS. IF SOME COMPANIES HAVE BEEN PAYING COMMISSIONS TO AGENTS IN RETURN FOR REAL OR IMAGINARY SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA IS UNAWARE OF SUCH PAYOFFS, DID NOT APPROVE OF THEM AND WILL NOT TOLERATE THEM.

(2) THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS ASKED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY TO PROVIDE IT WITH ALL THE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PAYOFFS AND COMMISSIONS AND ANY OTHER SUMS ALLEGEDLY PAID TO TWO OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES SO THAT IT MAY UNDERTAKE AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO CLEAR ALL DOUBTS AND ESTABLISH THE TRUTH. JUST PUNISHMENT WILL BE METED AGAINST ANYBODY WHO IS PROVED TO HAVE DEVIATED AND BETRAYED THE GOVERNMENT'S TRUST.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, WHILE SUBMITTING THESE FACTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC OPINION, WISHES TO AFFIRM THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT ANY DEVIATION BY A COMPANY OR AN INDIVIDUAL THAT OBSTRUCTS ITS PROGRAM OF ARMAMENT OR OFFEND THE REPUTATION OF THE GALLANT ARMED FORCES, THE COUNTRY'S BULWARK AND IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS.

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